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## FOREIGN NEWS

**NEW YORK, Mar. 6.**—A tribune cable from London, Mar. 7, says: The extent to which Joubert and Steyn have succeeded in massing their forces is not yet clear, but they are covering Bloemfontein by a long defensive line on the hills south of Modder river. Their tactics are the same as those which were employed on the Tugela, when the Dutch commandos covered a distance of eighteen miles; but the country is less favorable for their system of defense. There is no river in front of them, and Roberts has four mounted brigades, with horse artillery with which their line can be turned. The Seventh Division, under Tucker, has not yet been in action, and will probably have the brunt of the fighting if a battle precedes the occupation of Bloemfontein; but it is probable that a frontal attack will be avoided, and that French's brigades will make a long circuit northward so as to cut off the retreat toward the Vet river.

The Dutch forces, if defeated, will fall back upon Winburg, and the high hills between Ventersburg and Senekal, between the Vet and Valsch rivers. This is described by South Africans as the most formidable defensive position in the Free States, and lateral railways lead up behind it at Bethlehem and Kronstadt.

**NEW YORK, Mar. 7.**—(Afternoon Service.)—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says: The extent to which General Joubert and President Steyn have succeeded in massing their forces is not yet clear, but they are covering Bloemfontein by a long defensive line on the hills south of the Modder river. Their tactics are the same as those which were employed on the Tugela when the Dutch commandos covered a distance of eighteen miles, but the country is less favorable for their system of defense. The results of the Dutch concentration are disclosed in the facility with which the district south of the Orange river has been cleared. General Gatacre's army is not strong, since an entire brigade was called back to reinforce Lord Roberts' corps, yet he has been able to take possession of Stormberg without a struggle. The Boers had retreated from that natural fortress to Rookop and left the road open to Burgheersdorp. The occupation of Stormberg gives to General Gatacre the control of the railway westward to Middleburg and enables him to advance northward toward the Orange river.

**NEW YORK, Mar. 4.**—A Sun cable from Cape Town says: On Land, a Dutch newspaper, states that Joubert began the withdrawal of the Boer forces opposing Buller on Feb. 25th. He left a force at Grobler's Kloof to give the impression that the relief of Ladysmith would still be obstinately resisted. The siege was wholly strategical, the paper states, and it had to be raised on account of conditions on the western border. Henceforth the republican forces will act solely on the defensive.

**CHICAGO, Mar. 7.**—A special to the Record from Victoria, B. C., says:

According to Asiatic advices by the steamer Empress of India, the recent coup d'etat of the Empress Dowager of China, in which the Emperor, Kwang Su, was dethroned and the 6-year-old son of Prince Tuan named as his successor, bids fair to embroil the Celestial Empire in civil war. At Swatow the Chinese are already in revolt and in many other parts of the empire they are taking up arms against the Empress and the Manchus. The reform party which is at the head of the movement to foment rebellion is in receipt of a telegram from Kang Yu Wei, sent from Singapore, in which he says he can raise an army of 40,000.

The China Gazette says the Empress Dowager and her advisers, being afraid of a revolution in Peking, have applied to the Russian Government for help and that the Japanese Government has protested.

**WASHINGTON, Mar. 6.**—Acting Secretary Meiklejohn sent to the House to-day a statement of expenditures by the War Department covering the military operations in the Philippines, including outstanding liabilities, from May 1, 1898, to November 1, 1899. The total is given at \$48,928,060, the principal items being: Quartermaster's department, \$25,715,901, of which \$17,136,864 is for army transportation; subsistence department, \$8,950,000; medical department, \$1,206,137; pay department, \$10,833,134; ordnance department, \$1,860,239.

**ST. PETERSBURG, Mar. 6.**—The recent discovery of Russian and Polish nihilist plots has led to renewed police precautions. On all the Russian frontiers the police are exercising extreme vigilance and are guarding the Czar's movements. The entire route of the Czar's visits to barracks, theaters and public functions are doubly patrolled by secret police, while the guards about the Winter Palace and along the Neva quay are particularly numerous.

**YOKOHAMA, Mar. 6.**—Japanese officials have again denied that there is any likelihood of war between Japan and Russia. Both are working secretly in Korea, and, while the stake there is dear to both, it is improbable that either side desires war. Japan lacks the necessary money and Russia has not finished her railway.

**BERLIN, Mar. 6.**—Fridtjof Nansen, who is here, says that he has given up all hope of ever hearing from Andree, the explorer. He states that he has made liberal allowance in his time calculation and has given up hope. Nansen starts north in May on a summer trip in behalf of the Norwegian Government.

**PORT TOWNSEND (Wash.), Mar. 3.**—The schooner O. M. Kellogg arrived at Hoquiam today from Hilo. She was ordered by the United States quarantine officer to come here for inspection and fumigation. The Kellogg sailed from Hilo Feb. 14th.

**LONDON, Mar. 6.**—Lady White, wife of General Sir George White, has been invested by the Queen with the Order of the Crown of India.

## TELEGRAPHIC ITEMS

Cecil Rhodes was at Capetown, Mar. 4th, and expected to sail for England on the following Wednesday.

J. T. Hammond, Republican, and W. H. Long, Democrat, are candidates for the seat of Bigamist Roberts.

The Prince of Wales says that the British government is preparing a large scheme for cleansing the slums of London.

Nansen will go to Iceland to make hydrographic studies for his government. He has no hope of Andree's survival.

It has been decided by the British Government that Lord Pauncefoot will remain as ambassador at Washington indefinitely.

Al Ferrouh Bey, Turkish Minister to Washington, has received permission from the United States to bring his harem to Washington.

It is said that the Hawaiian bill will be so amended as to allow all vessels now flying the Hawaiian flag to secure American registry.

An amendment was offered to the Hawaiian bill providing that all contracts for labor entered into since August 12, 1898 be declared null and void. The amendment was adopted without discussion.

San Francisco quarantine officials refused to pass the Warren or her passengers until they had been fumigated, on account of Major General Joseph Wheeler coming ashore while the Warren was in Honolulu.

It is almost certain that 42 men lost their lives in a mine explosion at the Red Ash mine, Hilton West Virginia on Mar. 7th. If the explosion had occurred twenty minutes earlier, 150 men would have lost their lives.

Prof. Bernhard Moses of Berkeley University has been appointed a member of the Philippine commission. Judge Taft, president of the commission is opposed to the acquisition of the Philippines by the United States.

It was stated recently in the British Parliament that no negotiations were proceeding between Great Britain and Portugal regarding the acquisition of Delagoa Bay or any other part of Portuguese East Africa.

A bill has been introduced into the House prohibiting the sale of distilled or intoxicating liquors in the Philippines in quantities of less than twenty gallons, except on a physician's prescription for medical purposes.

Defects have been discovered in the Nicaragua canal survey, a mistake having been made by the Walker commission. The rock foundation at Boca San Carlos is much deeper than estimated. Work on the canal will not be delayed.

Senator Davis of Minnesota has offered an amendment to the Porto Rican bill. Its effect is to have the tariff of the United States applied to Porto Rico upon foreign imports, but to allow absolute free trade between the United States and Porto Rico.

The American Sugar Company of New York has reduced the price on all its sugars 10 cents per hundred pounds. The usual reduction is 5 cents at a time. This double reduction brings the price of standard granulated down from 5.20 cents to 5.10 cents a pound.

At a recent emergency meeting of the Free State Raad at Bloemfontein a radical difference of opinion developed, the majority favoring peace at any price, but the minority, including President Steyn, advocating a fight to the end.

A billion dollar trust is being formed. It will be a combination of the iron and steel interests with a capital of \$1,000,000,000 and will include the American Tinplate Company, National Steel Company, American Hoop and Wire Company, National Sheet Steel Company and one more company now being formed.

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